

Further notes on migrants in the Cape Verde Islands

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In a previous note (Hazevoet 1990), data were given for several new and rare migrants observed in the Cape Verde Islands in 1986–90. During another 3 months stay in the country (27 January–28 April 1991), in connection with the National Parks and Protected Areas Program, additional observations were made on some of the species listed previously, while another new species and a new subspecies were recorded. Many of the observations during the current period seem to confirm the supposition made earlier, that with continuing ornithological research many of the species that were considered vagrants in the past will be shown to be regular (passage) visitors, be it in limited numbers. As in 1986–90, most of the migrant passerines were found again in the three eastern islands (Sal, Boavista, Maio). It appears now that they really do occur more often there and that their appearance is in consequence of the position nearer to the African mainland and not only related to the fact that these flat islands offer better opportunities for encountering small birds. However, it may be noteworthy that the few records of migrant passerines elsewhere in the archipelago were also made on flat islands such as São Vicente and Raso. Apart from hirundines, there are no records at all of migrant passerines from Santiago, Fogo, Brava and Santo Antão, all of which combine a mountainous environment with a more westerly position.

Again, through the courtesy of several other observers some of their unpublished records could be included here. Unless stated otherwise, all observations are by the author. More data on migrants were recently published by den Hartog (1990). The distribution of migrant waders in the Cape Verde Is. is discussed in another paper (Hazevoet 1991), including the third record of Knot *Calidris canutus*, inadvertently omitted by Hazevoet (1990).

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

In April 1991, Spoonbills were observed again at the same two lagoons where they were regularly seen during 1988–90 (Hazevoet 1990). On 9 April, 2 juveniles were observed at Pedra Badejo lagoon, Santiago, and on 24–26 April, one juvenile was present at Rabil lagoon, Boavista. There are now 14 records (10 since 1986) and the species can be considered a regular, probably annual, visitor in small numbers, almost exclusively at the two sites mentioned.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One was present at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, on 18 February 1991, and again one there (possibly the same bird) on 26 April. Only 2 previous records: Alexander (1898b) observed 2 in salt pans near Porto Inglês (Vila do Maio), Maio, on 20 November 1897, and another 2 were seen at the Pedra Lume salt pans, Sal, on 7–8 February 1987 (D. de Bruyn).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Hazevoet (1990) gave 11 records since 1969, when it was first collected. Further records in 1991 (4 at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 18 February, and 2 there, 24–26 April) confirm that the species is now a regular (annual) winter visitor in small numbers and extend the known period of occurrence to October–April.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Nominate *N. p. phaeopus* is a widespread winter visitor along the coast throughout the islands. On 15 February 1991, I observed a Whimbrel with an all-brown rump at Preguiça, São Nicolau, and identified it as *N. p. hudsonicus*. This is the first record of the Nearctic subspecies and in fact only the second Nearctic (sub)species recorded in the Cape Verde Is., American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* being recorded three times (Bannerman & Bannerman 1968, Frade 1976). It is possible, of course, that some of the other migrants or vagrants in the islands (e.g. Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* and Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*) originate from North American breeding grounds, but since there are as yet no ringing recoveries this remains speculative. In West Africa, *N. p. hudsonicus* has been recorded once in Sierra Leone (Urban *et al.* 1986).

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

One was seen along the shore southeast of Porto Inglês (Vila do Maio), Maio, on 2 April 1991, in the company of a Whimbrel *N. phaeopus*. This is the first acceptable record. Previously, Alexander (1898a) reported that he heard a pair calling on Boavista on 13 May 1897, without giving further details. Bocage (1898) listed it without evidence for Santiago, Sal, Boavista and Maio.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

On 18 February 1991, one was present at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, together with many other wader species. The only previous record was of one at Pedra Badejo lagoon, Santiago, on 9 November 1988 (Hazevoet 1990).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

On 18 February 1991, 2 were observed at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, and one was present there on 26 April. Previously, there were only two records of birds ringed in Finland and Sweden and recovered on Santo Antão in June 1935 and on Sal in April 1979 respectively (Rydzewski 1958; B.-O. Stolt, *in litt.*). Other recent records are of 1–2 birds at Calheta, Maio, on 5 January 1987 (D. de Bruyn), one immature near Curral Velho, Boavista, on 30 December 1988 (K. Morgan), and one near Praia, Santiago, on 21 May 1989 (R. L. Miller). Furthermore, there is a ringing recovery of a Swedish bird of which further details are lacking at present (Tauraco AFRING Data Bank). There are no breeding terns in the Cape Verde Islands, but migrants are apparently less rare than formerly supposed. Recent observations show that at least 4 species are probably regular passage visitors in small numbers. Data on Sandwich Tern *S. sandvicensis* and Little Tern *S. albifrons* were given by Hazevoet (1990), while the latter species was observed again in 1991 (see below). Furthermore, Lambert (1980) observed Arctic Terns *S. paradisaea* in

flocks of up to 65 birds at sea among the islands, and Icelandic fishery researchers informed me that they saw *c.* 20 Arctic Terns at sea between Maio and Santiago in April 1989. Moreover, there are 3 records of unidentified terns (Murphy 1924, P. W. G. Chilman *in* Bannerman & Bannerman 1968, C. J. Camphuysen), and 'Comic Terns' *S. hirundo/paradisaea* have been reported at sea just east, west and south of the islands (Harris & Hansen 1974, A. R. Louch).

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

On 24–26 April 1991, one was foraging along the shore south of Sal Rei, Boavista, the same location where one was seen in March 1990 (Hazevoet 1990). There are now 3 records from Boavista and Maio during 1988–91 and it appears that the species is a regular passage migrant in small numbers in the eastern islands.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

On 4 April 1991, 4 were observed in the littoral zone southeast of Porto Inglês (Vila do Maio), Maio. They were foraging in the extensive *Zygophyllum* vegetation present there. Only one previous record: one near Curral Velho, Boavista, on 20 September 1988 (Hazevoet 1990).

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

On 27 January 1991, 2 were foraging near a sewage outlet at Espargo, Sal, and on 28 February 1991, one was seen at the sewage farm south of Mindelo, São Vicente. The only record previously was of one collected by the Blossom expedition on São Vicente, 30 January 1924 (Bannerman & Bannerman 1968).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Observed twice in 1991: 2 east of Rabil, Boavista, on 19 February, and one at Terra Boa, Sal, on 27 April. There are now 9 records (November–April), 7 since 1985, confirming the earlier supposition (Hazevoet 1990) that the species is a regular winter visitor in small numbers.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

One was observed in *Acacia* bushes at Terra Boa, Sal, on 27 April 1991. Only one previous record: one near Porto Ferreira, Boavista, on 21 September 1988 (Hazevoet 1990).

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